

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed 05/21/2003. Reconsideration with an eye toward allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant notes that this application was filed on 09 August 1999 and has been pending for more than 4 years. This is the first examination on the merits of the claims.

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 6, 43, 57, and 58 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph and objections, set forth in the Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Because of the long period of patent pendency and the business importance of having certain claims allowed and granted in a United States patent as soon as possible, Applicant herewith cancels all non-allowed claims (Claims 1-5, 7, 10-42, and 44-56) without prejudice or disclaimer to represent the same or similar claim in another related application. Applicant had earlier cancelled Claims 8-9 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicant does not admit the propriety of any of the rejections or objections to the cancelled claims and intends to separately pursue such claims in a separate related continuation or divisional application. The non-allowed claims are cancelled only to permit the claims indicated as being allowable to issue as soon as possible

Applicant has amended the Abstract to correct the deficiencies identified by the Examiner.

Applicant has also amended each of Claims 6, 43, 57, and 58 to overcome the objections as to formal matters and matters under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. As many of the objections were to matters of antecedent basis or clarity issues, Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to the claims are self explanatory and place the claims in condition for allowance. None of claims 6, 43, 57, or 58 remaining in the application have been rejected on any prior-art and therefore the question of novelty or obviousness are not at issue for these claims.

Applicant requests the favor of a telephone call to the undersigned attorney should any remaining issues be identified that would prevent issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required by this Amendment including fees for added claims not otherwise paid for, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-2319 (No. A-66732-3/RMA).

A-66732-3/RMA

Signed this 7th day of August, 2003, at Palo Alto, California.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
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Reg. No. 35,050

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